

HOUSE RESOLUTION 312

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Prince Rogers Nelson.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this body learned of the untimely death of Prince Rogers Nelson, a multi-talented musician, gifted songwriter, versatile singer, innovative producer, one-man studio band, and consummate showman; and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest and most influential artists in the history of American popular music, Prince sold more than 100 million records and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004; and

WHEREAS, always bursting with music, Prince was a wildly prolific songwriter, a virtuoso on guitars, keyboards, and drums, and a master architect of funk, rock, R&B and pop, even as his music defied genres; and

WHEREAS, in a career that lasted from the late 1970s until his solo “Piano & a Microphone” tour this year, he was acclaimed as a musical prodigy and an artist who shaped his career his way, often battling with accepted music-business practices; and

WHEREAS, a seven-time Grammy winner, Prince had Top 10 hits such as “Little Red Corvette,” “When Doves Cry,” “Let’s Go Crazy,” “Kiss,” and “The Most Beautiful Girl in the World”; his albums *Dirty Mind*, 1999, and *Sign O’ the Times* were full-length statements; and

WHEREAS, his songs also became hits for others, among them “Nothing Compares 2 U” for Sinead O’Connor, “Manic Monday” for the Bangles, and “I Feel for You” for Chaka Khan; and

WHEREAS, with the 1984 film and album *Purple Rain*, Prince told a fictionalized version of his own story: biracial, gifted, and spectacularly ambitious; its music won him an Academy Award, and the album sold more than thirteen million copies in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, although he recorded the great majority of his music entirely on his own, playing every instrument and singing every vocal line, when Prince performed those songs onstage, he worked as a bandleader in the tradition of James Brown, at once spontaneous and utterly precise; and

WHEREAS, an indefatigable performer, Prince defied a downpour to play a triumphal “Purple Rain” at the Super Bowl halftime show in 2007, and he headlined the Coachella festival in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Minneapolis on June 7, 1958, the son of John L. Nelson, a musician whose stage name was Prince Rogers, and Mattie Della Shaw, a jazz singer who had performed with the Prince Rogers Band; and

WHEREAS, President Obama expressed the sentiment of a grieving American public when he said of Prince: “Few artists have influenced the sound and trajectory of popular music more distinctly, or touched quite so many people with their talent”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Prince Rogers Nelson, the artist forever known as Prince, an iconic American musician, songwriter, and performer who leaves behind a prolific, innovative, and extremely popular body of work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and offer our condolences to Prince’s family, friends, and millions of fans worldwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.